

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LIMA 06623 101900Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 CIEP-03 OMB-01 EUR-25 SAM-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-03 ACDA-19 NIC-01 FEA-02 AEC-11

SCI-06 DRC-01 /194 W

----- 034150

P 101722Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1402

UNCLAS LIMA 6623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU, PE

SUBJ: RAUL CASTRO AND PRIME MINISTER MERCADO COMMENT ON US-CUBAN
RELATIONS UNDER PRESIDENT FORD

1. AUGUST 10 LIMA NEWSPAPERS REPORT EXTENSIVELY ON COMMENTS MADE
SEPARATELY TO LOCAL PRESS BY VISINT CUBAN ARMED FORCES MINISTER
RAUL CASTRO AND PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER MERCADO. BOTH SUGGEST
THAT THE UNITED STATES UNDER PRESIDENT FORD MAY FIND IT EASIER TO
END CUBAN BLOCKADE AND RE-ESTABLISH US-CUBAN RELATIONS.

2. EXPRESO CARRIES FOLLOWING SUMMARIZED ACCOUNT OF RAUL CASTRO'S
REMARKS TO NEWSMEN, UPON CASTRO'S RETURN FROM VISIT TO QUITOS:

"WE ARE READY TO CONVERSE WITH THE NEW US GOVERNMENT, IF AND
WHEN IT LIFTS THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE APPLIED UNJUSTLY AGAINST MY
COUNTRY...HE RECALLED THE WORDS OF COMMANDER PRIME MINISTER
FIDEL CASTRO, WHO DURING HIS LAST SPEECH ON JULY 26, SAID
"SEVERAL AMERICAN AND CUBAN COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES WHO PLAYED
A LEADING ROLE IN THE BAY OF PIGS AGGRESSION, MANAGED TO UNDER-
MINE THE PRESIDENT OF THE US." RAUL CASTRO ADDED THAT IT WAY
PRESIDENT NIXON WHO FIRST PROPOSED THE BAY OF PIGS OPERATION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LIMA 06623 101900Z

TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, WHO PASSED IT ON TO KENNEDY, WHO WAS ONE

OF THE BEST PRISIDENTS "EVEN IF HE WAS THE ONE WHO INITIATED THE AGGRESSION AGAINST THE BAY OF PIGS". RAUL CASTRO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT US WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS BICENTENNIAL WITHOUT AN ELECTED PRESIDENT. NEVERTHERLESS, WE ARE READY TO CONVERSE WITH THEM WHEN THEY LIFT THEIR ECONOMIC BLOCKADE.

3. LA PRENSA STORY REPORTS THAT RAUL CASTRO SAID THAT SOMEDAY SOCIALISM WILL BE BUILT IN THE US AND THAT THERE WILL SURELY BE US-CUBAN RELATIONS BUT "OUR RELATIONS WILL BE BETTER WITH THE GREAT FATHERLAND OF LENIN FOR THE HELP IT HAS GIVEN FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION". COMMENTING ON IMPORTANCE OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES AND CUBAN'S LACK OF THEM, CASTRO ALSO SAID THAT CUBA WOULD HAVE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WITHIN NEXT FIVE YEARS. LA PRENSA ADDS THAT RAUL CASTRO CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE CONSIDERED PERU TO BE HIS HOMELAND, HIMSELF TO BE A PERUVIAN AND THAT "WITH THAT, I AM TELLING YOU EVERYTHING".

4. PRIME MINISTER MERCADO, WHO HAS BEEN CASTRO'S HOST DURING MOST OF HIS VISIT TO PERU, ALSO MADE STATEMENTS TO PRESS UPON RETURNING FROM SHORT TRIP TO BOGOTA, WHERE HE ATTENDED LOPEZ MICHELSEN INAUGURATION. LA PRENSA REPORTS MERCADO AS SAYING THAT HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION WOULD SPEED THE LIFTING OF THE CUBAN BLOCKADE. MERCADO SAID THAT THERE WAS NOW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESIDENT FORD TO SETTLE THE CUBAN QUESTION BY ENDING THE BLOCKADE SO THAT CUBA COULD RE-ENTER THE LATIN AMERICAN FAMILY WITHOUT GOING THROUGH OAS. DEAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SANCTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRESIDENTIAL SU CCESSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIMA06623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740219-1246
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740857/aaaabxhf.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAUL CASTRO AND PRIME MINISTER MERCADO COMMENT ON US-CUBAN RELATIONS UNDER PRESIDENT FORD
TAGS: PFOR, CU, PE, US, OAS, (CASTRO, RAUL), (MERCADO JARRIN, EDGARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005